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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2400
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5720
RUEHGZ/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU 9585
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 6934
RUEHGH/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI 0406
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 003382

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SUBJECT: EU URGES ANOTHER PUSH ON TAIWAN GPA

Classified By: AIT ACTING DIRECTOR ROBERT WANG FOR REASONS 1.5 (b), (d)

[1](#)1. (U) This is an action message. Please see paragraph 4.

[1](#)2. (C) During a lunch on September 28, European Commission Representative to Taiwan Brian McDonald made a strong plea for the U.S. to join the EU in another effort to find satisfactory language for Taiwan to accede to the WTO Government Procurement Agreement. McDonald said the EU proposes modifying the footnote language in the second stage so it refers only in general terms to all 'previous decisions of the Committee' rather than to the specific case of Taiwan. The EU believes this more generalized language could well be acceptable to Taiwan and, in McDonald's view, "China would probably not object." McDonald followed up with a phone call on September 29, proposing that the EU and the U.S. move quickly on this issue because his tour in Taiwan ends on October 11.

[1](#)3. (C) Comment: After 3.5 years in Taiwan, McDonald is well acquainted with the GPA accession issue and would like to see it move forward during his watch. It is not clear to us that China would acquiesce to the proposal formulated by McDonald. We have understood that, to date, China has been insisting on a specific reference to Taiwan's case in the second-stage footnote. We agree with McDonald that Taiwan is not inclined to support the current proposal on the table. End Comment.

[1](#)4. (C) Action Request: We would appreciate Washington Agencies' guidance on how best to respond to McDonald's request for quick action to propose alternative language for Taiwan to accede to the WTO GPA. End Action request.
WANG